



Are We Truly Meant to Achieve Anything We Want in Life?

Sixbert SANGWA • May 28, 2024

In today's society, we frequently encounter phrases such as "*dream big*", "*look far*", "*have a strong vision*" and other similar exhortations encouraging us to achieve the highest possible goals. While these concepts are not inherently wrong and can inspire hard work and big dreams, they often lead individuals astray when separated from a biblical perspective. This article seeks to explore the biblical view on ambition, contentment, and the unique purposes God has for each of us, while also issuing a stern warning about the dangers of pursuing material wealth apart from God.

The Allure and Danger of Ambition

Ambition, when rooted in self-reliance and detached from God, can lead to lust, jealousy, and dissatisfaction. The idea that we can achieve anything through our own efforts alone often fuels a pursuit for more—more success, more wealth, more recognition—leading us away from God's purpose for our lives. The Bible warns against such pursuits: "*For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice*" ([James 3:16](#)). When our ambition is driven by a desire for material wealth, it can lead us into ungodly ways of earning that wealth, including dishonesty, exploitation, and compromise of our Christian values.

God's Purpose for Each of Us

God has created each one of us with a distinct purpose and has endowed us with unique abilities and resources to fulfill His divine plan. This is illustrated in the Parable of the Talents, where Jesus describes how a master entrusts his servants with different amounts of money, "*each according to his ability*" ([Matthew 25:15](#)). This parable teaches us that our roles and resources are not uniform but are distributed according to God's wisdom and plan. We are not to covet the resources or roles of others but to be faithful with what we have been given.

The Perils of Pursuing Material Wealth

The pursuit of material wealth, when it becomes an end in itself, can be perilous. It can lead us into ungodly behaviors and away from our true calling. The Apostle Paul cautioned against the love of money, stating, "*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs*" ([1 Timothy 6:10](#)). This pursuit can result in behaviors and decisions that compromise our integrity and lead us away from God's path.

Stewardship Over Ownership

As stewards of God's gifts, our responsibility is to manage them faithfully and diligently. Whether we have been given spiritual gifts, material resources, or both, we are to use them to serve God's purposes. The apostles, for example, had little in the way of material wealth, yet they were instrumental in spreading the Gospel throughout the world. We must remember that "*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*" ([Psalm 24:1](#)). Our success should not be measured by worldly standards but by our faithfulness in utilizing God's entrusted resources to fulfill His purpose for our lives.

God's Sufficient Grace

The story of Paul's thorn in the flesh serves as a profound reminder of God's sufficiency. Paul had an infirmity, and he prayed to God to remove it. However, God responded, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*" ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)). God, in His wisdom, knew that removing this infirmity might lead Paul to pride and potentially risk his salvation. This demonstrates that God will not give us anything that could lead us into sin or jeopardize our eternal life. Instead, He provides what we need to stay dependent on Him and to fulfill our divine purpose.

Faithfulness in Our Calling

The Bible encourages us to be faithful in our specific callings. Trying to fit into roles we are not called to can lead to frustration and a sense of failure. For instance, if God has called you to be a nurse, attempting to become a businessman instead may not only lead to dissatisfaction but also prevent you from fulfilling the purpose God has for you. Paul's advice to the Corinthians encapsulates this principle: "*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*" ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)). Additionally, [Colossians 3:17](#) reminds us, "*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*" Similarly, [Colossians 3:23-24](#) states, "*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*"

The Measure of True Success

God's measure of success is vastly different from the world's. It is not based on our level of education, wealth, or status but on how we use the gifts and opportunities He has given us to glorify Him. We must continually ask ourselves: Are we working for the Lord or for our own interests? Our ultimate goal should be to hear the Master say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" ([Matthew 25:21](#)).

Conclusion

While there is nothing wrong with working hard and aiming high, it is crucial to align our ambitions with God's purpose for our lives. By faithfully stewarding the gifts and resources God has given us, we can achieve true success—not as the world defines it, but as God does. Let us remember that in whatever we do, we should do it all for the glory of God, fulfilling His divine plan and bringing honor to His name. Pursuing material wealth and worldly accolades can lead us astray, but when we focus on God's purpose and rely on His grace, we fulfill the true calling He has placed on our lives.

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